

Opportunity to Comment on Starrigavan Watershed and Recreation Enhancement project

The Tongass National Forest, Sitka Ranger District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Starrigavan Watershed and Recreation Enhancement project. The District proposes watershed and recreation restoration and enhancement actions in the Starrigavan Watershed at the north end of Sitka, Alaska. The project includes reconstruction of stream channels and Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails, construction of parking lots, and construction of trails for foot traffic, bikes, motorcycles/electric bikes and OHVs. The Responsible Official for this project is: Perry Edwards, Sitka District Ranger, perry.edwards@usda.gov.

The full description of the Proposed Action is available on-line under the “scoping” tab at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57497>. The Proposed Action is also available for review at the Sitka Ranger District. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Michelle Putz, Team Leader, 907-747-4278, michelle.putz@usda.gov.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

Specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 days following the date of publication of this notice in the *Daily Sitka Sentinel*, the newspaper of record for the Sitka Ranger District. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in an EA. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Only individuals or entities who submit timely and specific written comments about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Comments must be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Persons submitting comments must provide the following information: name and address; title of the proposed project; specific written comments; and signature or other verification of identity upon request. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are listed at 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

Specific written comments for the Responsible Official may be submitted via mail, other delivery service, email, fax, or in person to: Michelle Putz, 2108 Halibut Point Road, Sitka, AK 99835, email at: comments-alaska-tongass-sitka@usda.gov, FAX: 907-747-4253.

Business hours for hand delivered comments are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays. Electronic comments shall be in a format that is compatible with the current version of MS Word.

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